

May 24, 2026

Pentecost

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
HE LIVES TO POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT

THEY SAW WHAT
SEEMED TO BE
TONGUES
OF FIRE
THAT SEPARATED
AND CAME TO REST
ON EACH OF THEM.



ACTS 2:3, NIV

EMMANUEL & St. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES
Wisconsin Synod
Mecan, WI & Montello, WI
Sunday Worship: 8:00 AM & 10:00AM

WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

We pray that you are blessed by God's Word today. **The order of worship** is printed here, is projected on the screen, and live streamed at www.stjohnsmontello.org. **Restrooms** are located in the linkway, out the church entryway, to the left and down the stairs. At Emmanuel, they are located in the Parish Hall. A **nursery changing station** is located in the lower level of St. John's.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

Life is full of either/or moments. Some of them are of little long-term consequence. I will have either the chicken or the fish. Some of them matter more. I will accept the new job offer or keep my current job. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things. . . be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin. But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50- day celebration of that fact.

HE LIVES TO POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT

When the disciples were distressed about Jesus ascending into heaven, he assured them, "It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7). That Advocate is the Holy Spirit. If Jesus had stayed in the grave, the Holy Spirit would have had no reason to enter the lives of disciples. But Jesus lives, and it makes a difference. The Spirit provides faith and purpose for life. Pentecost, the celebration of the special arrival of the Holy Spirit, is the third great festival of the Church, along with the Nativity and the Resurrection. Pentecost closes the fifty-day period after Easter and ends the festival half of the church year. The Church dresses in red on this day to commemorate the tongues of fire that marked the Spirit's gift as well as the blood of the martyrs.

Today's Worship Leader: Retired Pastor John Dolan

We are using electronic music today.

Holy Spirit, Comforter sent from Jesus, work in us by the Word so that we may know the truth in Christ. Guard and keep us in the faith that saves. Fill us with your power so that we will delight in doing good works to the glory of God the Father. And move us to be active in spreading the good news of Jesus to people everywhere so that you may work saving faith in their hearts also. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Today's Order of Worship

(Adapted from *Corporate Confession and Absolution* CW pages 278-281)

OPENING HYMN: 593 Holy Spirit, Light Divine

As you are able, please stand.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may love you and praise your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved others as you command. For this I deserve your punishment now and forever. I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy.

Silence for reflection

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.

Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven." Do you believe this?

Yes, I believe.

In the name and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

Amen.

EXHORTATION

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

PRAYER

God, our Father, by the sacrifice of your Son you reconciled the world to yourself. We thank you for the precious gift of forgiveness. Refresh us with the joy of our salvation, that we may walk in the way of peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Renew our minds and wills, that daily we may speak your word of peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please, be seated.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3-11

When God pours out his Spirit, it is for the benefit of the entire Church.

³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

As you are able, please stand.

GOSPEL READING: John 7:37-39

Jesus promised that those who were spiritually thirsty would be filled with the living water of the Spirit.

³⁷On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please, be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 586 "Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest"

SERMON: Acts 2:1-21 "We Have Spirit, Yes, We Do!"

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." ¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷" 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹I will

show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

As you are able, please stand.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please, be seated.

OFFERING & PRAYERS

As you are able, please stand.

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on this day kept his promise and poured out the Holy Spirit to empower his Church to proclaim the gospel in all the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you. As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.**
Amen.

Please, be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Our Biblical Communion Practice

The Lord's Supper is God's gift in which we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith. This gift brings certain responsibilities. The sacrament is for those who have been instructed and who understand what the sacrament is all about. Communing together is also a way we express oneness of faith. Therefore, we ask that only confirmed members of our congregations or other churches in fellowship with the Wisconsin Synod come forward to receive the sacrament today. Thank you for respecting this biblical practice. To learn more, you may speak with the pastor.

As you are able, please stand.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Please, be seated.

CLOSING HYMN: 782 "Luther's Morning Prayer"

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Call News

The WELS Assignment Committee was not able to assign a seminary graduate to Emmanuel/St. John's. We will continue to call from the field as soon as possible.

The New Meditations Begin May 31! Pick Up Your Copy Today!

This week's Meditations looks at the first chapter of Genesis, and the theme is "Creation Declares God's Glory".

This Week of May 24-30:

Mon 25th: Memorial Day

Tues 26th Joint Worship Meeting at St. John's, 6:30pm

Next Sunday is Holy Trinity. Our Worship Leader will be Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman. Our Accompanist will be Mr. Robert Mateske, Jr.

ST. JOHN'S LADIES, the ballot cast for LWMS is posted on the bulletin board in the information room to see how our church voted.

Installation Of New St. John's Church Leaders next Sunday, May 31 St. John's will install the members of the Church Council, LL Board of Education, and CALA board.

Trustees: Jerre Duerr (President) –Outgoing; Aaron Wachholz (Vice President); James Wachholz (Secretary); Jacob Jaster (Maintenance Chair); Martin Schmanke—Outgoing; Chad Hunter Jon Vote; Matthew Kath—Incoming; Jamie Stelter—Incoming **CALA Board:** Zeb Zuehls; Mike Kempley; Alex Truell **Board of Education (LL):** Mark Emond—Outgoing; Adam Malsack; Kevin Kaul; Ben Jaster—Incoming **Treasurer:** Jeff Reimer. **The congregation of St. John's heartily thanks these men for serving our Savior as leaders in His Church.**



Lutheran Military Support Group Ammo Can Campaign—Each May and November, Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) seeks donations in support of our military men, women, and families. LMSG, a partnership of ELS and WELS Veterans, is working to grow awareness of and bring Christian support to our Christian

Warriors and their families in our congregations. By placing your gift in the Ammo Can, you are supporting the spiritual and mental health of our Christian Warriors through programs like our retreats and workshops, educational support for pastors serving military families, Veterans perusing a second career in public ministry, and more.

Visit www.lutheranmilitary.org for more information. Thank you for standing *Shoulder to Shoulder in Service* with those who serve our Nation!

Emmanuel Council Meeting: An Emmanuel Council meeting is scheduled for May 31st following worship.

The Earth is the Lords and EVERYTHING in it." Psalm 24 ...

Stewardship of the Word Last Week:

- Ascension Worship at Emmanuel – **68**
- Sunday Worship at Emmanuel-**39**... at St. John's -**75**
- **21** Attended Wednesday Bible Class

Our Stewardship of Gifts and Offerings

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
April	\$33,436.46	\$21,714.68	\$39,471.49	\$32,954.18
Year to Date	\$334,364.60	\$230,313.57	\$360,215.08	\$313,635.39

2025-26 Fiscal Year Summary (10 months): Income and expenses both continued to run slightly lower than budget. Income continued to outweigh expenses, resulting in a net gain which has continued to grow well beyond the budgeted projection. The checkbook balance rose for the third month in a row and remained healthy. Overall book equity (assets minus obligations to dedicated accounts) crossed over into positive territory for the first time in several years. Emmanuel's continued financial support, through cost-sharing and subsidizing CALA obligations, has helped maintain healthy finances. However, the current budget would be challenged in supporting a full-time pastor with a family and benefits.

Our Stewardship of Time

Today's ushers at St. John's: James Wachholz, Zeb Zuehls, Chuck Boetcher, Jesse Schable, Aaron Wachholz, Wally Wolsdorf. Next Sunday will be: Paul Van Treeck, Matt Borzick, Ken Borzick, James Henke, Haiden Van Treeck, Nolan Van Treeck, Brody Henke, Milo Henke.

"All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee."

“Spirit of God”, by LuAnn Zieman

The poem traces the work of the Holy Spirit, beginning with the creation in Genesis through Pentecost. “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:7

1
Like a mother bird,
the Spirit of God hovered gently
above the formless earth
awaiting the Father’s spoken Word
to fill the void with light.
He was the breath of life,
breathed into Adam
in the beginning,

2
Time and again the Spirit
descended as a dove—
quietly, peacefully—the Comforter.
He came as tongues of fire,
purifying God’s people.
As violent wind, he,
the promised gift, filled them,
instilling strength and courage
“to go into all the world
and preach the Gospel.”

3
He is the Living Water,
sweeping through believers
like a mighty cleansing stream,
bringing light to darkness,
giving new life,
flowing in and moving them
to do God’s will.



Welcome to Our Visitors - Help Us Stay In Touch

Scan the barcode using your smartphone camera and fill out the prompted information...OR... fill out the attendance card located at the end of each pew and place it in the offering plate



Vacancy Pastor: Bruce Hanneman 507-317-5772 bwhanny@frontier.com

CALA Acting Principal – Lucas Wolter-Mr. Martin Raasch - Grade 6-8

Miss Beth Barenz - Grade 3-5 -Mrs. Elizabeth Wolter – K-2

Miss Rachel Huebner - Little Lambs Teacher -littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org

Mrs. Sylvia Straschinske - Little Lambs Director -ladmin@stjohnsmontello.org

Jorgia Kempley – CALA Secretary -secretary@christalonelutheranacademy.net 920-481-9002 ... **St. John's Church Office:** Matthew Kath 608-297-2866/608-494-0167

Church/School Address: 313 E Montello St. Montello, WI 53949

Church Email: scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org